Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, line 13 - Page 13, line 12 as follows:

By way of overview and introduction, a server **100** which is configured to implement the system and method of the invention is illustrated in FIG. 1. FIG. 1 shows a hardware arrangement **102** including an automated trading/clearing server **100** with a bilateral communication line **103** for communication over the Internet or other networks **104**. By way of the Internet **104**, the automated trading/clearing server communicates with plural customers **106** using remote stations or personal computers **108**. The customers **106**, also refered to herein as "traders," are any persons or entities desiring to sell, purchase, or otherwise transfer ownership interest in securities. The server **100** also communicates with Sponsoring Broker Dealers (SBD) **110** through the Internet **104**. The customers **106** and the SBDs **110** connect to the Internet over respective communication lines **112, 114**. A plurality of customers **106** at widely dispersed geographic locations can communicate with the server **100** through the Internet **104**. Likewise, any number of SBDs can refer customers to the automated trading/clearing server **100** through the Internet **104** or other means. Each SBD has a number of its own customers **116** that access the automated trading/clearing server **100** through the SBD **110** or through direct connections to the Internet **104** by way of connection **117**.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 3-14 as follows:

Later, when a customer **106** attempts to execute a trade by sending a trade ticket **128** to server **100**, the customer's trades are reviewed and approved automatically by risk assessment and trade approval routine **120** which assesses the suitability of a trade for that particular customer **106**. The server **100** obtains the transaction details of the proposed trade from the trade ticket **128**. The transaction details include all of the information entered into the trade ticket by the customer **106**. Risk assessment and trade approval routine **120** used these transactions details to retrieve that customer's

CRR from database **124** and to assign a trade risk rating (TRR) to the proposed trade. The TRR reflects the underlying economic risks of the instrument itself or the nature of the trade within the overall context of the customer's risk profile (which is reflected in the CRR), and is based upon a set of trade risk assessment rules stored on a database **130**. It should be noted that the term "database" as used herein refers to a set of related data. Therefore, the various databases discussed herein may each be a separate, individual databases or they may be interrelated. Accordingly, these various devices may be located in separate physical devices or may reside in a single housing, and some or all of the databases may share some or all of the data therein with some or all of the other databases.